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NOTE: The attached memo was picked up by
[redacted] on 26 February
1976. A copy was sent to: [redacted]
James Lilley, NIO/China, and [redacted]
OCI.

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February 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN PRICE

SUBJECT: Proposed visit of the Committee on Armed Services to the People's Republic of China during the period April 15-25, 1976

As you are aware, representatives of the PRC and I have discussed the possibility of the committee sending a delegation to the PRC during the forthcoming Easter recess. These discussions have been productive, and representatives of the PRC have asked that the committee submit a suggested itinerary for the proposed visit together with the names of members of the committee and staff who would be included in the visiting delegation.

Unfortunately, because of a logistics problem, the PRC representatives pointed out that the number of official visitors which they are capable of handling properly is severely limited. Also, it was pointed out that the PRC hopes to entertain other, but smaller, delegations from both the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House International Affairs Committee at the same time. Hence, the representatives of the PRC have urged that the number of people in the official party from the Committee on Armed Services be limited to a number not in excess of 13 or 14. It was also pointed out that this number might prove more than they can handle.

In view of these circumstances, and at your direction, I have contacted the more senior members of the committee to ascertain their intentions in respect to this possible visit to the PRC and have ascertained that the following members would make the visit if given the opportunity:

Chairman Price and wife
Mr. Bob Wilson and wife
Mr. Dickinson
Mr. Whitehurst and wife
Mr. Stratton and wife
Mr. Spence

Mr. Ichord and wife
Mr. Randall and wife
Mr. Charles Wilson and wife
Mr. Leggett and wife
Mrs. Holt and husband
Mr. Hicks and wife

If you would desire staff assistance on the trip, I and my wife would be available.

The members contacted expressed the following suggestions as to the possible itinerary for the forthcoming visit:

General assumptions:

Depart Thursday, 15 April, 0900
Arrive back Sunday, 25 April, AM
10+ days

Maximum time in China would be 6 nights

Tokyo - 1 night on way over

Honolulu - afternoon; 1 night and next day on way back

Port of entry into the PRC: Shanghai

Places to be visited:

Peking - discussions with representatives of the PRC - visits to the Great Wall, Ming Tombs, etc.

Shen-Yang - visit to the PRC aircraft industry facilities and military region headquarters and discussions with officials.

Pao-Tou - visit to the PRC armaments industry facilities in the area and discussions with officials.

Hei-Hsia-Tzu - visit to Sino-Soviet border areas and discussions with local officials.

Shanghai - visit to the PRC naval facility and discussions with officials.

The members who recommended these various places to visit understood that time would preclude a visit to most of them; but they were suggested as a possibility, depending upon the desires of the host PRC government.

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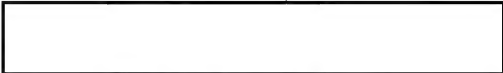
Visit with principal officials:

All of the members expressed a desire to meet the principal leaders of the PRC, including Mao-Tse-Tung, the Chairman of the CCP-CC. Also, a number of members expressed the particular desire to meet with Vice Premier Teng-Hsiao-Ping.

Summary:

In summary, practically all of the senior members of the committee are anxious to be included in the visiting delegation but are mindful of the logistics difficulty that would be faced by the host government. Consequently, it has been suggested that you express these views to the PRC representatives.

In the event you have no objection to the suggested itinerary and possible composition of the visiting delegation, I will convey this information to representatives of the PRC.


Chief Counsel

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